

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

May 14, 2002

Department of Natural Resources

Room 214

Minutes

Members Present:

SCHLOTTHAUER, Bill - Water Rights
SOWARDS, Glade - DNR/ADMIN
CANNING, Michael - DWR
HARTY, Kimm - UGS
GRUBAUGH-LITTIG, Pamela - DOGM
MORTENSEN, Duane - DERR
GREGERSON, Jennifer - DFFSL
PITKIN, Jay – DEQ - Water Quality
GEORGESON, Michael - DEQ - Drinking Water
JOHNSON, Wes - DPR
CARTER, Kevin - TLA
PARKER, Randy - DAF
HOPKIN, George - DAF

Others Present:

WRIGHT, Carolyn - GOPB/DNR
DELOS SANTOS, Annette - BLM

I. Approval of April 9, 2002 Minutes

Bill Schlotthauer, the chairman called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. Kimm Harty corrected the minutes to read that the date of the meeting was April 9, 2002. Second paragraph change “attend” to “attending” and also change “Morman” to “Mormon.” Wes Johnson made a motion to approve the April 8, 2002 minutes. Kevin Carter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Report from Agencies on Any Anticipated Projects

Kimm Harty asked the committee if the two recent Fishlake notices from the Dixie National Forest were different. Project number #1838 is the Notice of Intent to Revise the Resource Management Plan for the Dixie National Forest. Project number #1762 is the Revision of the Land and Resource Management (Forest Plans) Notice of Public Meeting, which was the kick off for the planning process.

Wes Johnson provided an update on state park closures for the Division of Parks and Recreation (DPR). The legislature stated that DPR was too efficient in their process to cut back a half-million dollars by July 1, 2002 and recommended that DPR provide a report on park closures by December 1, 2002. DPR has already identified parks for closure and had initiated the process to close or transfer them over to local managers.

The Minersville property was acquired from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) through Beaver County. It was a Recreation and Public Purposes land

acquisition. According to the deed, if the park was abandoned by the state management responsibilities would be returned back to Beaver County. Weber County and Ogden City are both interested in managing the park, if operational expenses were paid by DPR (\$50,000 per year). Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County are both interested in managing and operating Jordan River Parkway from North Temple to Redwood Road, if \$75,000 would be available to cover operational expenses. Part of the Jordan River Parkway is already managed through and agreement with the county. This agreement could be extended to include this section of the parkway. Weber County and Ogden City are interested in managing Fort Buenaventura.

DPR was considering closing Otter Creek and Piute, however both parks will remain open due to overwhelming public support. The public hearings went very well and DPR received good public support for the entire park system.

No response is required from RDCC since the park closure process is directed by the legislature. However, comments would be greatly appreciated.

Randy Parker announced that this year would be the worst Mormon cricket and grasshopper infestation since the 1930s. After the third or fourth instar these insects are half-mature and then become eating machines destroying farmer's fields and wildlife habitat. Managers will have a better perspective on resulting impacts to resources in Utah over the next few months. Baiting along roadways and on private land is currently being used to help control these insect populations. Agencies are doing as much as possible, but budgets are limited this year and there are some significant challenges regarding control measures (spraying) on federal lands. Approximately 99 percent of instars are on public lands and at this stage they are easier to control. An Environmental Assessment (EA) is required to authorize treatment on federal lands. NRCC members please offer comments on EAs as soon as possible since treatments are behind schedule. Last summer, there were several challenges to spraying on public land. The BLM and U.S. Forest Service have some differences in processes, which makes this even more challenging. The process complicates and slows these efforts. Annette Delos Santos mentioned that the BLM's process is moving forward. Managers are watching Las Vegas, Nevada and St. George, Utah since they will move into Utah from these areas. This will be a record setting year for cricket and grasshopper populations.

The West Nile virus a type of encephalitis that is transmitted to humans by mosquitoes. Utah anticipates that infected mosquitoes will be moving into Utah this summer. There has been some discussion of removing vegetation in breeding grounds, which run along river corridors to slow them down, however no decisions have been made.

Bill Schlotthauer provided an update on drought conditions and related issues in Washington County. Please provide comments quickly in response to any drought related projects. Drought conditions may require some water plumbing alterations to

convey water around the state. Washington County Water Conservancy District (WCWCD) will submit a pipeline proposal to hook municipalities together to improve water delivery flexibility. Sometime during mid-summer the Santa Clara EA will be available for review. BLM and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have been working on these EAs.

Flow forecasts indicate that the Virgin River is 30 percent of normal, Santa Clara is 10 percent of normal. There will be little carryover storage. WCWCD has approached the Division of Wildlife Resources requesting permission to tap into the conservation pool and is considering running a pipe up the outlet works of Gunlock Reservoir.

The Provo Drainage Basin is two-thirds of normal flow. The Bear River Basin is 50 percent of normal. The last time that Bear River water rights were cut back (1977) they were cut back to 1875 priority rights.

Municipalities will generally be able to provide water because they have wells and are able to swap water rights.

Annette Delos Santos asked if the committee had received a copy of the Last Chance EA and mentioned that copies of the EA were available. Annette sent information electronically to the committee regarding the Escalante Monument field trip on May 15-16, 2002. The group will meet at 10:00 a.m., at the Price BLM Field Office. The trip itinerary is attached to the minutes.

The committee thanked Annette for putting together this field trip. Additional information regarding monument planning can be accessed through BLM's website.

III. Review of Proposed Items as Listed on the Project Management Library

No discussion on proposed items was required. Randy Parker requested an update on the status of Bear Lake Dredging. Bill Schlotthauer recommended that he could check with the Logan Field office and with Division of Water Rights (Daren Rasmussen) to inquire if a permit has been filed.

Other Announcements

Dr. Thomas Brill has been appointed as the new director for the Utah Energy Office. Glade Sowards reported that his position has been advertised as a part-time position. Glade will transfer RDCC responsibilities and train his replacement.

The Wide Hollow Reservoir EA Finding of No Significant Impact document did not address reduced revenue impacts to the town of Escalante or other comments provided by DPR and the Division of Wildlife Resources regarding recreation opportunities and wildlife concerns submitted over the last three years. The loss of opportunities for fishing and recreation, the elimination of the warm water fishery and other issues were not addressed. Michael Canning mentioned that there is a

possibility that the reservoir could be used as a fishery for brood stock for Colorado River Cutthroat/planned fishery. Annette Delos Santos will report this concern to the BLM State Office.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

**Field Trip between
the Utah Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the
State of Utah Resource Development Coordinating Committee (RDCC)
May 15 and 16, 2002**

Background: A field trip has been organized to show the RDCC some of Utah BLM public lands and resources. The Utah BLM has fostered a long-term relationship with the State of Utah natural resource agencies. Moreover, the State is now a cooperating agency for several recent land use planning efforts.

Where: BLM Price Field Office (FO) area, where a new resource management plan is under way.

Hosts: BLM Price FO-
Floyd Johnson, Planning Project Manager
Tom Rasmussen, Acting FO Manager
BLM Price FO specialists

Participants:

-RDCC members

-BLM Utah State Office personnel: Annette Delos Santos, Shelley Smith, Holly Roberts, others?

ITINERARY:

DAY 1-Wednesday, May 15, 2002

II. Meet at BLM Price FO at **10:00 am**

III. 10:00 am - 5:30 pm (Field trip - pack your lunch & drinks)

Points of Interest: San Rafael "Wedge," Buckhorn Draw (Petroglyphs, dinosaur tracks), Minerals activity (oil and gas)

DAY 2-Thursday, May 16, 2002

IV. Meet at the Price FO at **8:00 am**

V. 8:00 am - 5:30 pm (Field trip - pack your lunch & drinks)

Points of Interest: Goblin State Park, Temple Mountains, Minerals activity (uranium sites), Copper Globe (Historic mining), Swasey's Cabin (Historic site)

Contact: Please provide a commitment of numbers as soon as possible (at the latest, by May 10). Please provide numbers and/or names of those who will be going on the field trip to Annette Delos Santos. Phone: 801-539-4110 AND/OR E-mail: Annette.Delos.Santos@ut.blm.gov.

Other logistics:

Transportation: People can drive down the night before or use the morning of May 15 to travel.

Tour vehicles: Everyone will meet at the BLM Price FO; the vehicles for the tour will be supplied by the BLM.

Lunches & drinks: Individuals will need to bring sack lunches.

Suggested Hotel(s): Holiday Inn Price, 838 Westwood Blvd, Phone: (435) 637-8880
Super 8 Price, 180 N. Hospital Dr., Phone: (435) 637-8088

Travel & per diem: To be paid by your home office.

